



# City of Santa Paula

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970 VENTURA STREET  
SANTA PAULA, CALIFORNIA 93061  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 569  
Phone: 805 525-4478  
FAX: 805 525-6278

August 29, 2002

Chairman Getman  
and Commissioners Downey, Knox, and Swanson  
Fair Political Practices Commission  
428 J Street, Suite 620  
Sacramento CA 95814

Re: September 5, 2002 Commission Meeting  
Agenda Item #15

Dear Chairman Getman and Commissioners Downey, Knox, and Swanson:

It has come to my attention that all State agencies have been asked to submit a plan to cut expenditures by 20% in fiscal year 2003-2004. Unfortunately, I am unable to attend your September 5 meeting; therefore, I am submitting this letter and ask that you take it into consideration during your deliberations and decision-making process.

I am currently the City Clerk in Santa Paula and have held this position for almost two years. The Deputy City Clerk has held the position for three years. As you are aware, City Clerks serve as filing officer for campaign statements and Statements of Economic Interests for designated officials and employees. In reviewing the memo from Chairman Getman and Executive Director Krausse dated August 26, 2002 to the Commission, I would like to point out that cuts to some of these programs will certainly impact City Clerks in our role as filing officers.

During my tenure in the City Clerks profession, my staff and I have had numerous occasions to use the *Hotline* service. As you know, the regulations are very complicated and can be intimidating to anyone who is not familiar with them. With your toll-free number and technical assistance advice line, I do not hesitate to refer any of my filers (candidates, officials, or designated employees) to your hotline for advice. I have heard nothing but positive comments from my filers when they call your toll-free number and they are able to receive immediate answers to their questions. My own experience with the hotline has certainly made my duties much easier. The quality of the advice, as well as being able to receive it in a time manner, is very crucial.

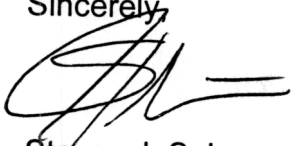
The *Outreach Program* is extremely valuable and should be made available to anyone who serves in a filing officer role. Santa Paula has been on the waiting list to receive this service.

The *Filing Officer Training Programs* and *On-site Seminars* are an invaluable service for local candidates. I strongly encourage candidates and treasurers to attend these seminars. I have heard nothing but positive comments about the quality and helpfulness of these seminars.

While I fully understand that you have been given the responsibility of making these cuts, I hope that you will take my comments into consideration and look for areas where cuts can be made that will not impact the services you currently provide to City Clerks and our filers. The services now provided by the FPPC are exemplary, and you and your staff are to be commended for the improvements made over the last few years. In order to preserve the integrity of the Political Reform Act, it is imperative that these services remain intact as they are functioning today.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SJS', with a horizontal line extending from the end.

Steven J. Salas  
City Clerk

SJS:jgh